GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:937
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
WTO AGREEMENT
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;V.M. SUDHEERAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are facing serious problems in dealing with WTO agreement on the farm sector front;

(b) if so, whether any meeting with the representatives of the various States have been conducted to arrive at a consensus;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the views voiced by the States; and

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government to face the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): A review of the present Agreement on Agriculture of the WTO is in progress. India`s position and approach in the on-going negotiations in agriculture under the World Trade Organisation` Agreement on Agriculture is based on wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union Territories,representatives of political parties, farmers` associations, eminent agro-economists and research institutions.

(b): Government of India had called a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and AgricultureSecretaries of all the States/UTs on 23.10.2002 and of Agriculture Ministers of all the States/UTs on 24.10.2002, and of Political Parties and Stakeholders on 29.10.2002, to discuss the strategy to be adopted during these negotiations.

(c)&(d): In these consultations, there is a general convergence of the views of various stakeholders in agriculture on need to safeguard the interests of our agricultural production and farmers during the negotiations and to have increased Market Access for agricultural products of export interest to us.

In the on-going negotiations India has been building coalitions with other WTO membersholding similar interests and concerns. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1st January, 2005.